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YE OLDEN TIME LETTER.

Mr. George Wilson Copies it for Our Readers.

THINKS POCONONTAS A GREAT WOMAN

An Interesting old Paper, Dating Back to 1617—Old Style Spelling.

EDITOR INTELLIGENCER—Probably a good deed was never better rewarded than was the act of Pocohontas in saving the life of Capt John Smith. Few women have ever lived whose descendants are as numerous in as highly respectable families as hers to-day. Even in our own county some of our comeliest and most attractive young ladies and stalwart young men are among the families of her descendants whose names are now written in a special volume. Mr. Stannard, the zealous secretary of the Virginia Historical Society has lately published a letter from the white man who became the husband of the daughter of Powhatan, which I have copied for you below. When I lived in my youth in contact with Indians, it was a matter of regret to me that the many good and noble traits of the race could not become the heritage of the whites. This Indian maiden was an example of a good, brave, faithful, commonsense woman. There was undoubtedly a pathetic incident in her life that in the stoical Indian style she shut up within herself and never told. She loved the man whose life she saved better than she ever loved anyone else. When, as Rolfe's wife, she went to England and met him, she was greatly affected. But she only said quietly, "they told me you were dead." Then she was silent a long time. She belonged to a race whose practice was to endure pain and make no sign.

GEORGE WILSON.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8, '02.

From "The Ferrar Papers" at Magdalen College, Cambridge, England. Communicated by Michael Lloyd Ferrar, Little Gidding, Ealing, England. In Virginia Historical Magazine, October, 1902 (Richmond).

LETTER OF JOHN ROLFE, 1617.

The following letter from John Rolfe to Sir Edwin Sandys, dated 8 June, 1617, from Jamestown, has recently been found among other old Virginia and Ferrar papers in Magdalen College, Cambridge, where they were deposited with other Ferrar things in 1790 by the then master, the Rev. Dr. Peckard, whose wife was a Miss Martha Ferrar, great granddaughter of John Ferrar, the Deputy, and Sir Edwin's right hand in his connection with Virginia in those early days. Dr. Peckard left no descendants. * * * Among all the early pioneers of civilization on the banks of the James river, none bore a higher character than John Rolfe, and this letter of his, I think, deserving of being made known to lovers of Virginia, and of being preserved in the pages of the Virginia Magazine.

"HONORED SIR—The many courtesies and favors I have received at your hands shall (during my life) bind me to you in my best service; and so often as occasion shall offer itself, I shall not forget to express the same; of this present I have briefly noted to you in what estate we found the colony; and of a speedy passage thither. "Upon the 10th day of April we departed from Plymouth, and the next day lost sight of the bizard, having the Treasurer in or Company, which kept with us about 3 weeks; at what time we lost her in foggy weather which continued after 30 dates, in which time we had hardly a date to make a certain observation. The same date month (according to the date of the week) that we lost the land and we felt in the dangerous showles of Cape Cod, running in one glass from 20 fathoms and 4 fathom water, not able to see (by reason of the thick fog) half a cables length from the ships. How anchored all night, and the next day with no small pill got close of

them. From hence we shaped our course along or Coast of Virginia, keeping or lead all the while, which was our best guide having so good a pilot as our governor, the fog still continuing, and arrived at Point Comfort ye 15th day of May, all or company being in good health, only one man dyed, who was sickly before he came from England. Thus it pleased God to bless us with a speedy and prosperous passage, yet bidd we not been troubled; to free ourselves from these showles, and with mysty, we had assuredly (by God's help) arrived in Virginia in a month's space. Two or three days after arrived Captaine Martyne with his Pynace all his men in good health to or joyes. "Wee found the Colony (God be thanked) in good estate now enjoying a firmer Peace, nor more plenty, however in buildings, fortifications, and of tools, much ruined and greater want. Or present governor at James towne is repaying and making straight what he fyndeth decayed and reaked, to whose good endeavors and noble disposition or Colony hath bene, is and will be much indebted. All men cheerfully labor about their grounds, their barts and hands not ceasing from worke, though many have scarce rages to cover their naked bodies. English wheate, barley, Indian corne, Tobacco greete plenty in the ground. Hemp and flax seed distributed to most men by the Governor, and is putt into the ground; nothing neglected, with any waies may be available to advance the colony, and to give encouragement to yourself and the rest of the Habie Company. The Cattle thrive and increase exceeding well, the ploughes yerely worke and oxen are plentiful. The Iodyans very loving, and willing to parte with their children. My wives death, is much lamented; my childe much desired when it is of better strength to endure so hard a passage whose life greatly extinguisheth the sorrow of her loss, saying all must die, but tis enough that her childe liveth. I know not how I may be censured for leaving my childe behinde me, nor what hazard I may incur of or noble love and other of my best friends. At my departure from Gravesend (notwithstanding I was much importuned) I had no such intent. But in or short passage to Plymouth, in smother water, I found such feare and hazard of his health (being not fully recovered of his sickness) and lack of attendance (for they who looked to him had need of nurses themselves, and indeed in all or passage proved so better) that by the advice of Captaine Argall, and divers who also foresaw the danger and knew the inconvenience thereof, p'swaded me to what I did. At Plymouth I found Sr Lewis Stukely so nobly minded towards me that he most earnestly intreated me to have the keeping of him, untill my Brother took further order. I thought good to certifye, you hereof, and desire yourself and all the Company for these causes to hold me excused, if in their judgments I may be censured to have erred herein. A firme continuance of your favor and love towards me I daylie pray for. And although greates is my loss, and much my sorrow to be deprived of so greates a comfort, and hopes I had to effect my zealous intentions and desires as well in others as in her whose soule (I doubt not) resteth in eternall happiness; yet such temperance have I learned in p'sperity, and patience in adversity, that I will as joyfully receive evill, as good at the hands of God; and assuredly trust that He who hath p'served my childe, even as a brand snatched out of the fier, hath further blessings in store for me, and will give me strength and courage to undertake any religious and charitable employment, yourself and the Habie Company shall command me, and we will in duty I am bound to doe. Now my last request at this tyme is to yourself (whom I have found a father to me, my wife and childe and will ever acknowledge it with the best gratefulness my hart and penn can offer) that you would be pleased (as you have begun and ben one of ye principall instruments herein) to continue your noble favor and furtherance even for my childe's sake.

(Concluded on eighth page)

CENTRALIZATION OF COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

An Account of Experiments in Iowa Given by the State Superintendent.

HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSES THE PLAN.

Says it Resulted in Increased Attendance, Better Teachers and Reduced Cost.

The plan of centralizing the country schools and of transporting the children to them seems to have been an Ohio idea. The experiment was tried in that state ten years ago, and such was its success that general adoption followed. There is, of course, considerable expense attached to the hauling of the children to and from school, but the improvement in grading, attendance, health, and quality of teachers together with the decreased number of teachers employed is considered a full offset. After once getting the system in running order it is said that the cost of country education to the county is not increased while the efficiency of the schools is more than double.

Other states are experimenting with consolidated country schools, and recently the first county high school in Missouri was dedicated. This is a subject in which country people should be interested. If it is feasible it must greatly increase the desirableness of living in the country. An agricultural journal, giving an account of recent experiments in Iowa, says:

An idea, in connection with country schools that is quite new in the West, is gradually working out this way from the East. The purpose of it is to improve the schools. The idea is the centralizing of the schools; that is, reducing the number of them and have them central to as many pupils as possible. Heretofore, the idea has been to get the schools as convenient to the children as possible, and consequently there are a large number of small schools with inferior teachers and in a general way very inefficient. The new plan is to transport the children to the school in vehicles at public expense, and have fewer schools, large and better equipped. The expense of getting the children to and from the schools in vehicles is the only increased expense, and the plan has proved so popular that it is gradually spreading over the country.

In a recent article on this subject by Prof. R. C. Barrett, State Superintendent of Instruction in Iowa, in the 20th Century Farmer there are some very interesting facts set forth. In many localities in this State this idea, if carried out, would make a great improvement in the schools. There are two illustrations of the working, given from schools in Iowa, as follows:

BUFFALO CENTER.
Total number of pupils in attendance, 347.
Number of pupils transported, 115.
Number of teams used, 6.
Amount paid for team and driver, per month, \$34.
Average distance children are conveyed, 4 1/2 miles.
Number of teachers employed, 9.
Number of pupils per teacher, 38.
Average cost of tuition per month for pupils transported, \$1.71.
Average cost of tuition per month for whole school, \$1.41.

TERRILL.
Total number of pupils in attendance, 165.
Number of pupils transported, 137.
Number of teams used, 7.
Amount paid for team and driver, per month, \$34.
Average distance children are conveyed, about three miles.
Number of teachers employed, 4.
Number of pupils per teacher, 41.
Average cost of tuition per month for whole school \$1.53.
In the case of Terrill it will be observed that of the entire enrollment more than 83 per cent are transported, indicating a rural community almost entirely.

It can be seen from these figures that the children are getting this improved opportunity for education at a very low cost, and as the plan is still new there will doubtless be great improvements in the facilities afforded

to farmers' children to get just as good educations as those who live in towns and possibly at a still lower cost. This is what we want to see; the children of farmers to have just the same opportunities to make the most of the mental capabilities as the city and town dwellers, and not be subjected to any more hardship in getting them. In the report published, Prof. Barrett sums up the advantages gained in just the same terms that the superintendents in the east where the system has been in operation longer do.

He says: Briefly summarized, the advantages claimed for the system are in part as follows:

1. It will secure better teachers.
2. It will reduce the per capita cost of education in the districts affected in nearly every case, and without exception after the first cost of buildings, where buildings are required, has been paid.
3. It will insure better classification of pupils, so that both teacher and pupil may spend their time to better advantage.
4. Larger classes will stimulate competition and better effort and greater interest and enthusiasm among the pupils.
5. Supervision will be more thorough and more easily accomplished by the county superintendent and by the principal of the township or central school where it is large enough to require a principal and assistant teachers.
6. The attendance will be larger, as experience has shown.
7. Greater punctuality would be secured, as the children would all be brought to school before nine o'clock in the morning.
8. Consolidation would provide better buildings and more apparatus and libraries without additional expense.
9. Longer and more regular terms of school would be the result of uniting the forces of several small districts into one strong, central school, which could be kept running eight or nine months in a year.
10. The health of the children would be better guarded where they are conveyed from their homes to the schools in comfortable vehicles, than where they have to travel through mud or snow for a mile or so to the school, as they often do under the present system.
11. The older children would be kept at home and in school longer than they can be at present because the central school could provide advanced courses of study under a capable teacher. So the necessity of going to town to school would be put off for several years. The course of study would be so arranged as to accommodate these older pupils at such time as they can be spared to attend school. This would tend to keep the boys and girls on the farm instead of encouraging them to leave it and go to the towns. This is one of the main purposes of the system.
12. It will improve the farm surroundings, and add attractions to country life by stimulating a desire to know more about the works of nature.
13. In the central school there would be opportunity for the study of special branches which cannot be offered in the district school, because the teacher lacks either the tone or the ability to teach them.
14. In short, the opinion is almost unanimous to the effect that the consolidation of small schools, and the transportation of the pupils to a central school at the expense of a district, would result in better schools at less or no greater expense.

Mrs. Bert Taubman entertained a large party of her lady friends Thursday afternoon at her home. About

forty ladies were present. Mrs. W. F. Kerdolf was awarded the first prize, a cut glass bowl; Miss May Peak was successful in cutting for second prize, a handsome burr wood frame, of holly design. Mrs. Fredendall and Mrs. James Roberts were each awarded a holly wreath. Holly decorations were used, and the rooms were unusually beautiful. Of course elegant refreshments were served, and the occasion was thoroughly enjoyed.

Baptist Pupils' Recital.

A recital was given at the chapel of the Baptist College, Monday night, by a number of pupils in the music department of that institution. We believe we are safe in saying that the recital, as a whole, was the best ever given by the pupils of that department. The college has good reason to feel proud of the musical department. There has been a great improvement in the playing and singing of the young ladies since the beginning of the term, which bespeaks unusual talent among the pupils, or unusual powers of teaching among the teachers. We are disposed to divide the honors, and say that both have done unusually well.

The programme was quite a long one, and there was not a selection that was not pretty and well adapted to exhibit the power of the performer. It would require three times the space that is at our disposal to mention the merits of each one, and we feel that it would be injustice to mention any one to the exclusion of the others. We can only give the programme and repeat that each selection was a gem and each performer was worthy of the liberal applause she received. There are young ladies in this school, both in the vocal and instrumental departments, who are exhibiting powers which will soon bring them to the front as favorites.

- PROGRAMME.**
Piano Solo—Etude in C Major - - - - - Robinscien
Miss Kroenert.
Soprano Solo—A May Morning - - - - - Denza
Miss Jones.
Piano Solo—
*Un Giorno in Venzia - - - - -
a. Alba - - - - -
b. Gondolieri - - - - -
c. Canzone Amorosa - - - - -
d. Buona Notte - - - - -
Miss Corinne Nash.
Piano Solo—2nd Rondo Chromatique - - - - - Barnekov
Miss Bailey.
Violin Solo—Air Vari - - - - - Danc'a
Miss Quindara Jones.
Piano Duo—Andante Und Variationen - - - - - Schumann
Misses Trosper and Kroenert.
Soprano Solo—At the Making of the Hay - - - - - Lehmann
Miss Bertha Nash.
Piano Solo—
a. Chanson Creole - - - - - Ketterer
b. Polonaise in D Major - - - - - Schumann
Miss Hamblen.
Vocal Trio—Cradle Song - - - - - Brahms
Misses Bertha Nash, Peak and Gibson.
Piano Solo—Finale from the Sonata in C Major - - - - - Von Weber
Miss Jones.
Violin Quartette with Piano Accompaniment—Romance - - - - - Bach
Misses Mattie and Susie Kincaid, Quindara Jones, Mayme Johnson and Grace Phillips.
*A DAY IN VENICE.
Alba—The composer arrives in beautiful Venice at Dawn and hears the awaking of the city.
Gondolieri—The boatmen sing as they row their boats.
Canzone Amorosa—Songs as heard on the streets with guitar accompaniment.
Buona Notte—Nevin leaving Venice late in the evening with many pleasant recollections, waves last farewell to the beautiful city disappears from view.
Evan Becker left Friday night for Pennsylvania to visit relatives in Plymouth and Wilkesbarr. He will be absent about a week.
Mrs. Carl Hays went to Kansas City Friday morning for a short visit.

DIGGING AMONG RUINS.

Many Interesting Discoveries Are Being Made.

ANCIENT CITIES ARE BUILT ON RUINS.

The World Said to be an Old World in the Time of Abraham.

Professor Josiah Penniman, dean of the University of Pennsylvania, spoke before a large audience at the Central Presbyterian church, at Kansas City, recently, describing the finding of the site of ancient Calceeb "In the land of Shinar," by an expedition sent out in charge of Professor H. V. Hilprecht, from the University of Pennsylvania.

The professor enumerates the list of remarkable objects taken from the mound of Nippur. The great bulk of the treasures consists of uniform tablets, of which there are over 40,000. These disclose syllabaries of dictionaries, chronological lists, fragments of history, astronomical and architectural inscriptions, religious texts, votive and contract tablets, lists of taxes, plans of estates, multiplication tables, etc. The results of the excavations at Nippur, the speaker said, change the current theory of the origin and antiquity of many things. They throw some very welcome rays of light on that very early period of history in the land of the Garden of Eden; they teach us that back of Abraham lies a change of civilization which had a development of several thousand years; that the statements contained in the first chapters of Genesis are indeed an epitome of history, representing millenniums; that instead of considering Abraham an early figure on the sand of time, we must even regard Lugalzaggisi and Sargon as representing a middle period in Babylonian history.

The mounds which are being excavated at Nippur cover several distinct cities, each one apparently having been founded on the ruins of the city which preceded it. It would seem that when a temple had crumbled away a new dynasty would level the ruins by building a platform over them. On this the new temple would be built. Five or more such platforms have been discovered in Nippur, and each one represents an interval of centuries. Each city in a manner became a cellar of the successor, and one can imagine in the millenniums that passed some inhabitant discovering a strange passageway between his house winding down to wonderful caverns. Among the objects found in these caverns by the explorers from the University of Pennsylvania were the business records of the firm of Marashu Sons, of Nippur, a concern which thrived in the time of Artaxerxes I., 464 years before Christ. These tablets are, in a sense, the oldest bookkeeping records in the world. Professor Hilprecht was the discoverer of these business records. He found them in a room in the ruins of Nippur, six meters below the surface, together with other remarkable articles engraved on tablets. These tablets were mortgages, notes, legal contracts, and to read them as they have been translated by Professor Hilprecht one would almost believe them to be the work of a modern notary.

Professor Hilprecht was constantly finding fragments of tablets, of vases, of urns, of sarcophagi, etc., each fragment inscribed with some enlightening fact, or perhaps with some puzzling statement, the meaning of which was not ascertained until later. He was able, at times, to corroborate many historical statements concerning kings before Christ, and at others to fill completely many gaps in the long line of succession until they traced back to the days of Ur Gur, 2800 B. C., Narim Sin and his father, Sargon I., 3800 B. C., and to fifteen kings who lived previous to Sargon.

Rev. Xenophon Ryland returned Thursday afternoon from a trip to St. Louis and Little Rock.